



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

26 JANUARY 2022

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Los Angeles – Six Men Charged in Plot to Smuggle Weapons, Ammunition to Mexican Drug Cartel

(U) US authorities charged six men in a plot to smuggle weapons and ammunition to a Mexican drug cartel during the pandemic. The group began collecting weapons and ammunition to smuggle to the Cartel de Jalisco Nueva Generacion (CJNG) in March 2020. Members of the group are facing charges of violating export regulations, with some of the men facing other crimes such as money laundering. The operation went on for a year as the group obtained thousands of rounds of .50 caliber ammunition from Arizona and stored them in Nevada before attempting to move them to Mexico. During the investigation, six assault weapons were confiscated along with more than 250,000 rounds of ammunition.

SOURCE: 25 January 2022, [Yahoo News](#)

(U) Poway – South American Crime Ring Responsible for Burglaries in San Diego Neighborhoods

(U) The San Diego Sheriff's Department advised that a series of high-end burglaries targeting wealthy San Diego homeowners are the work of an organized crime ring operating out of South America. Authorities said that more than 60 burglaries in the county are tied to a Chilean national group known to authorities as the South American Theft Group. Members of the group travel across the US and are well known to law enforcement. The FBI has a task force dedicated to the crime ring.

SOURCE: 24 January 2022, [CBS 8](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas – CBP Officers Seize \$6 Million Worth of Narcotics in Two Seizures

(U) Brownsville – US Customs and Border Protection officers at the Brownsville Port of Entry intercepted suspected narcotics in two separate enforcement actions that have a combined estimated street value of \$6.12 million. The first incident occurred at the Los Indios International Bridge where a 19-year-old female US citizen attempted to smuggle eight packages of cocaine weighing nearly 20 pounds in a 2021 Ford. The second seizure occurred at the Veterans International Bridge where a 25-year-old male US citizen attempted to smuggle 35 packages of methamphetamine in a 2004 Ford. CBP officers seized the narcotics along with the vehicles, arrested the travelers and turned them over to the custody of Homeland Security Investigations special agents for further investigation.

SOURCE: 25 January 2022, [US CBP](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia– FBI Indicts 23 People Accused of Earning \$1 Million in Planned Car Accidents

(U) Washington – The Federal Bureau of Investigation indicted 23 people on more than 100 counts in connection to approximately 14 pre-arranged car accidents that earned them an estimated \$1 million in insurance claims. The defendants are accused of planning the collisions, orchestrating them mostly on

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secluded roads where only the accused defendants could be witnesses to the crash, fraudulently making insurance claims, and fabricating exaggerating injuries between July 2017 and September 2020. The defendants hail from Washington, California, Michigan, and Nevada. If convicted, they could spend up to 55 years in prison for a variety of charges.

SOURCE: 24 January 2022, [NBC Washington](#)

(U) District of Columbia – DHS Warns Electrical Infrastructure an ‘Attractive Target’ For DVEs

(U) Washington – The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said that domestic extremists have been developing plans to attack US electric power infrastructure. The department said both domestic violent extremists (DVE) and extremists specifically motivated by racial animus are among those eyeing the power system as a target for attack. The bulleting said that DVEs have developed credible, specific plans to attack electricity infrastructure since at least 2000, identifying the electric grid as a particularly attractive target given its interdependency with other infrastructure sections. The memo was issued the same day DHS warned law enforcement agencies that Russia could launch a cyberattack, including US infrastructure.

SOURCE: 25 January 2022, [The Hill](#)

(U) Florida – Coast Guard Searching for Survivors after Suspected Human Smuggling Boat Capsizes

(U) Fort Pierce – The US Coast Guard said that rescue crews are searching for survivors after a suspected human smuggling vessel reportedly capsized off the east coast of Florida over the weekend. An individual contacted the Coast Guard after rescuing a man clinging to a capsized boat about 45 miles east of Fort Pierce. The survivor said that he and 39 others left the Bahamas and their boat capsized after encountering severe weather. Rescue crews are actively searching for people in the water using multiple cutters and aircraft. Investigators advised that this is a “suspected human smuggling venture.”

SOURCE: 25 January 2022, [Fox LA](#)

(U) Kentucky – Man Who Breached Gate, Tried to Ram Police, Shot Dead

(U) Fort Knox – Authorities said that military police fatally shot a man who breached the main gate at Kentucky’s Fort Knox and tried to run over officers. The suspect drove toward Fort Knox police officers after initially fleeing from them through the gate, which is near the US Bullion Depository. After initially responding to a call of a suspicious person outside the gate, officers spent 90 minutes trying to verbally deescalate the situation before the man attempted to ram and strike officers with his vehicle. The suspect, who was declared dead on scene, had no affiliation with the military and there is no initial indication that the incident was extremist or terror related. Officers on scene were not injured and placed on routine leave pending an investigation.

SOURCE: 24 January 2022, [Yahoo News](#)

(U) New York – Drug Kingpin El Chapo Conviction Upheld

(U) Brooklyn – A federal appeals court upheld the conviction of the Mexican drug lord know as El Chapo. Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman sought to overturn his conviction in Brooklyn federal court on ten grounds of which all were concluded to have no merit. Guzman was convicted in 2019 of conducting a continuing criminal enterprise, including large-scale narcotics violations and a murder conspiracy, drug trafficking conspiracies, unlawful use of a firearm, and a money laundering conspiracy. He is currently serving a life sentence. Guzman was the leader of the Sinaloa Cartel. Under his leadership, the Sinaloa Cartel imported more than a million kilograms of illicit drugs into the US.

SOURCE: 25 January 2022, [ABC News](#)

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(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Congo – Suspected Islamists Kill at Least 12 in Eastern Congo Attacks on Villages

(U) Kinshasa – Suspected Islamist militants have killed at least 12 civilians and burned houses and motorbikes during raids on two villages in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Militants believed to be from Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) attacked the villages. The attackers came from bases in nearby North Kivu and killed the 12 people, burned four motorbikes and torched six houses. No group has taken responsibility for the killings, but the ADF does not usually comment on its operations.

SOURCE: 25 January 2022, [Reuters](#)

(U) United Kingdom – Police Arrest Two More Men over Texas Synagogue Attack

(U) Manchester – British police said that two men were arrested in the northern English city of Manchester as part of a US investigation into a hostage taking at a synagogue in Texas earlier this month. British authorities had previously arrested four people over the incident including three in Manchester, and one man in Birmingham. The two teenagers have been released without charge. The day-long siege occurred on 15 January when a British man took four people hostage at a synagogue in Colleyville, TX. The gunman died as federal agents stormed the temple while the four hostages were released unharmed.

SOURCE: 26 January 2022, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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